

Amendment to Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

1. (original) In a spill resistant carpet wherein a spill resistant coating is applied thereto to prevent a liquid spill from permeating through the carpet, the improvement which comprises:

a spill resistant coating comprised of an ethylene-vinyl acetate polymer comprised of crystalline ethylene segments prepared by emulsion polymerizing ethylene and vinyl acetate in the presence of a stabilizing system, said ethylene-vinyl acetate polymer having:

a crystalline melting point ranging from 35 to 110 °C measured at a heat rate of 20 °C per minute; and,

a tensile storage modulus of at least 1×10^5 dynes/cm² at a temperature of 115 °C and measured at 6.28 rad/sec.

2. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 1 wherein the ethylene/vinyl acetate polymer is comprised of from 15 to 90% by weight of polymerized units of vinyl acetate and from about 10 to 85% by weight of polymerized units of ethylene based upon the total weight of the polymer.

3. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 1 wherein the polymer is comprised of from 25 to 80% by weight of polymerized units of vinyl acetate and from about 20 to 75% by weight of polymerized units of ethylene based upon the total weight of the polymer.

4. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 1 wherein the polymer is comprised of from 35 to 75% by weight of polymerized units of vinyl acetate and from about 25 to 65% by weight of polymerized units of ethylene based upon the total weight of the polymer.

5. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 1 wherein the polymer is emulsion polymerized in the presence of a stabilizing system consisting of a nonionic surfactant and an anionic surfactant.

6. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 1 wherein the polymer has a tensile storage modulus of at least 2×10^5 dynes/cm² at 115 °C and measured at 6.28 rad/sec.
7. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 1 wherein the heat of fusion of said polymer is from about 5 to 100 joules per gram as measured at a heat rate of 20 °C per minute.
8. (currently amended) ~~he~~ The spill resistant carpet of Claim 1 wherein the heat of fusion of said polymer is from about 20 to 50 joules per gram as measured at a heat rate of 20 °C per minute.
9. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 1 wherein said ethylene-vinyl acetate polymer has a glass transition temperature from +25 °C to about -35 °C as measured at a heat rate of 20 °C per minute.
10. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 6 wherein the crystalline thermal melting point of said polymer ranges from 45 to 90 °C as measured at a heat rate of 20 °C per minute.
11. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 1 wherein polymerized carboxylic acid units are present in said polymer in an amount from about 0.2 to about 10% by weight of said polymer.
12. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 11 wherein the polymer has a tensile storage modulus of at least 2×10^5 dynes/cm² at 115 °C and measured at 6.28 rad/sec.
13. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 11 wherein the polymer is emulsion polymerized in the presence of a stabilizing system consisting of a nonionic surfactant and an anionic surfactant.

14. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 11 wherein the heat of fusion of said polymer is from about 5 to 100 joules per gram as measured at a heat rate of 20 °C per minute.

15. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 11 wherein the heat of fusion of said polymer is from about 20 to 50 joules per gram as measured at a heat rate of 20 °C per minute.

16. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 11 wherein said polymer has a glass transition temperature from +25 °C to about -35 °C as measured at a heat rate of 20 °C per minute.

17. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 12 wherein the crystalline thermal melting point of said polymer ranges from 45 to 90 °C as measured at a heat rate of 20 °C per minute.

18. (original) The spill resistant carpet of Claim 11 wherein the polymer comprises 15 to 90% by weight of polymerized units of vinyl acetate, 10 to 85% by weight of polymerized units of ethylene, and 0.5 to 5% by weight of polymerized units of acrylic acid, based on the total weight of the polymer.